

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-10 /071 W

----- 040403

R 160845Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1383

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, SY

SUBJ: SYRIA-IRAN RELATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 3408 AND 3309

1. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 15 THAT HE BELIEVED SYRIAN CRITICISM OF THE IRAQ-IRAN ACCORD HAD BEEN ONE-TIME INCIDENT DIRECTED ENTIRELY AGAINST IRAQ. NOTE: APRIL 10 DAMASCUS PRESS REPORTED THAT BAATH PARTY CONGRESS HAD DECIDED TO "CONDEMN SUSPECT RIGHTIST REGIME IN IRAQ FOR ITS COLLUSION WITH IRAN AND FOR SIGNING IRAQI-IRANIAN ACCORD, AN ACT WHICH CONFIRMED ITS LINKS WITH IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM, ITS PERSISTENCE IN LIQUIDATING THE REVOLUTION IN ARABISTAN AND ITS BETRAYAL OF CAUSE OF ARAB NATION."

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD NOT AS YET MADE ANY SORT OF OFFICIAL PROTEST BUT HAD POINTED OUT UNOFFICIALLY TO NUMBER OF SYRIAN OFFICIALS THAT BAATH PARTY CONGRESS'S PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO ACCORD WOULD NOT HELP IRANIAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS. HE SAID DEPUTY FOREIGN
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MINISTER RAFI'I HAD ASSURED HIM, ALSO UNOFFICIALLY,

THAT SARG HAD MEANT NO CRITICISM OF IRAN IN STATE-MENT. AMBASSADOR ADDED SMILINGLY THAT HE HAD SILENCED ONE SYRIAN OFFICIAL WHO HAD RAISED ARABISTAN/KHUZISTAN ISSUE BY INVITING HIM TO CONSIDER WHAT SYRIA'S SITUATION WOULD BE IF IRAN CLAIMED ALL TERRITORIES CONQUERED BY CYRUS THE GREAT. HE SAID THAT AFTER SUITWBLE DELAY, HE PLANNED TO SEE FONMIN KHADDAM OFFICIALLY TO MAKE LOW-KEY PROTEST FOR THE RECORD.

3. AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT TWO IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAD COME TO SYRIA AS SCHEDULED TWO DAYS AFTER CRITICAL STATMENT TO DISCUSS MODALITIES FOR PAYMENT OF LARGE CREDIT IRAN WAS OFFERING SYRIA. THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT, HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD SOON BE WORKING OUT DETAILS FOR SYRIAN MIN NATIONAL ECONOMY IMADI'S VISIT TO TEHRAN. AMBASSADOR CHARACTERIZED SYRIA-IRAN RELATIONS AS VERY GOOD AND SAID OTHER MINISTERIAL VISITS WERE PLANNED FOR NEAR FUTURE.
PELLETREAU

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